

LYNN, THOMPSON RETAIN LEADERSHIP ROLES; DECKER JOINS BOARD

At its June 11 meeting, the statewide First Things First Board unanimously appointed Steve Lynn to his fourth term as Chair, and Dr. Gene Thompson to his third full term as Vice Chair. Dr. Thompson also served in this capacity for half of the 2010 fiscal year when Rhian Evans Allvin resigned from the Board to apply for the position as FTF Chief Executive Officer.

"Thank you all very much," Chair Lynn said after the vote. "I know Dr. Thompson joins me in thanking you for your continued vote of confidence."

The Chair and Vice Chair terms are for one year.

The meeting also marked the first Board meeting for new member Janice Decker, appointed by Gov. Jan Brewer in March.

Decker currently serves as the Executive Director of the March of Dimes Arizona Chapter, whose educational outreach, programs and advocacy efforts focus on protecting the health of Arizona's children by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

"I have a great concern for the future of our state and feel it really lies in the hands of our children," Decker said after attending her first Board meeting. "They all need to have a healthy start in life so that they can take advantage of all of the opportunities that lie ahead of them."

Prior to joining March of Dimes, Decker's career focused on public relations/communications, event management and marketing; she was employed by a diverse range of clients and industries. A biography and photo of Ms. Decker are available on the FTF website.

Chair Steven Lynn said Decker is a welcome addition to the statewide FTF Board.

"The strength of the Board lies in the unique perspective and insight that each member brings to our collective work," Lynn said. "Janice's experience in the health, communications and business sectors will strengthen our efforts to engage a greater community in the conversation about what young kids need to be successful in school and in life."

TOBACCO REVENUES EXPECTED TO EXCEED ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

Dr. Tim James told the FTF Board June 11 that attempting to predict the behavior of new and veteran smokers is like rocket science.

FTF contracted with Dr. James – the Director of Research and Consulting for Arizona State University's William Seidman Research Institute – to project tobacco revenues over the next 20 years. The information will help FTF assess its sustainability model and budget even more effectively on a year-to-year basis.



Among the factors James and fellow researcher Dr. Anthony Evans considered were: migration in and out of Arizona; employment estimates; smokers' behavior; and, likely increases in costs for tobacco products

The result was an "investment grade" forecasting model, much like those used by Standard & Poor's, Moody's etc., to project growth in investments. The FTF model's "conservative" conclusion: tobacco revenues are likely to remain steady at about \$120 to \$130 million per year, instead of consistently declining, as originally projected.

Several budgeting models were presented to the Board, all using a conservative estimate of tobacco revenues. The model accepted by the Board includes steadily drawing down from the FTF fund balance to keep expenditures at comparable levels year-to-year, while taking in to account projected growth in statewide programs and inflationary increases in administrative expenditures.

Rhian told the Board that reviewing the new sustainability model would be one of the primary topics of her fall visits to regional councils.

Dr. James cautioned the Board that tobacco revenue can be volatile, and that more detailed study on the behavior of smokers in Arizona specifically is needed in order to do more reliable long-term projections.

The FTF Board directed staff to assess the costs for doing more in-depth study of issues affecting tobacco revenues in Arizona. Member Basha said this information is critical to allow the Board to fulfill its obligation to voters to spend FTF tobacco funds as efficiently and effectively as possible.

A copy of Dr. James' report and the recommendations to the Board is available as Attachment 8 in the Board meeting materials on the FTF website.

BOARD APPROVES \$131 MILLION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS FOR FY 2013

Young kids across Arizona will continue to get the tools they need to arrive at kindergarten prepared to succeed, thanks to almost \$131 million in contracts approved by the First Things First Board for FY2013.

The funding will support both statewide initiatives and community-based strategies in five major areas: improving the quality of early learning programs (including early literacy efforts), helping teachers of young children enhance their professional skills, expanding health programs (including oral health and developmental screenings), supporting parents with home- and community-based services, and building public awareness of the importance of early childhood.

The approved contracts are with organizations ranging from state agencies working with young kids to nonprofit groups and city or tribal governments. Most of the contracts are for services beginning July 1. Additional contracts are expected to be approved by the FTF Board in July and August.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Future FTF Board meeting dates:

- July 31, 2012 (Phoenix-telephonic)
- August 21, 2012 (Phoenix)
- October 1-2, 2012 (Phoenix)
- December 10-11, 2012 (Casa Grande)
- January 22-23, 2013 (Phoenix)
- April 8-9, 2013 (Payson)
- June 10-11, 2013 (Phoenix)

AND IN OTHER FINANCIAL NEWS ...

The Board approved a revised 2013 budget. The revisions are based upon updated information regarding revenues and expenditures.

Among the issues affecting revenues were: anticipated regional carry forward revenues; accounting for changes made as a result of FTF's financial audit; and, tobacco revenues in FY12 exceeding FTF's projections. Among the issues affecting expenditures were: inflationary increases in employee-related costs; the need to create a funding line to accommodate the employee salary increases that were part of recent personnel reforms requested by the Governor and approved by the Legislature; and, costs related to the annual summit.

The net result is an FY13 budget that is almost \$177 million, an increase of \$27 million (most of which is regional carry forward that is expected to be spent down over the next 3 years).

A detailed report outlining these adjustments is available as Attachment 10 in the Board Meeting documents on the FTF website.



QUALITY FIRST UPDATE

As initial studies and results continue to demonstrate, Quality First participation is having a profound effect on early learning programs throughout Arizona.

Dr. Roopa Iyer reported on information obtained from the initial and progress assessments of 557 QF participating providers statewide. The results: 95% of the providers either maintained or improved their estimated QF rating (about 40% improved their rating and 60% maintained it).

Dr. Iyer also provided information on the age breakdown of children in QF participating centers, statewide and by region. A total of 41,231 children are enrolled in QF centers statewide. The age breakdown includes: 2,949 infants; 4,848 toddlers; 7,141 2-year-olds; 9,905 3-year-olds; 11,796 4-year-olds; and, 4,592 5-year-olds.

On a related note, the Board approved policies and procedures for QF centers in the areas of informal Dispute Resolution, Corrective Action Process, Appeals Procedure for Star Rating or Enrollment Termination; and, Disenrollment Due to Funding Reduction.

The policies and Dr. Iyer's report (which includes the regional age breakdown of kids in QF participating centers) are available as Attachments 11 and 12 in the Board meeting documents on the FTF website.

NATIONAL ADVISORY PANEL RECOMMENDS NEXT STEPS FOR EVALUATION OF PROGRESS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD AND IMPACT OF FTF

On June 12, the State Board received the final recommendations from the National Research and Evaluation Advisory Panel.

Last summer, the Board decided to halt the studies underway and convene a panel of national experts to help guide First Things First in our long-term approach to research and evaluation.

The distinguished panel was led by Dr. John Love, who recently retired after 17 years of service with Mathematica. Dr. Love was not able to attend the Board meeting, but Dr. Greg Duncan, a member of the panel, presented their recommendations for an overall evaluation approach and framework.

The Board asked that Rhian and staff submit a plan by October 1, 2012 for implementing the panel's recommendations. Several mechanisms for obtaining stakeholder feedback to inform that plan are in place:

- Rhian sent all regional council members a June 27 email which included the panel's report for review and consideration.

- FTF will be conducting a **formal tribal consultation on the panel recommendations on August 1st and several webinars** in later summer/ early fall to get feedback and insights on the recommendations.
- FTF also will host several Summit sessions focused on this topic where Dr. Love will present on behalf of the panel.
- In addition, Rhian will focus on this topic as she travels to regional council meetings in the next fiscal year.

The panel's report and recommendations also are available as Attachment 15 in the Board meeting documents on the FTF website.

BOARD APPROVES FTF STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2013 & 2014

Rhian presented to the Board a two-year tactical plan for implementing the Board's strategic priorities for fiscal years 2013 and 2014.

The plan is the result of 18 months' work by the Board and came as a result of the Arizona Early Childhood System Taskforce, regional funding plans, statewide school readiness indicators, board strategic planning and internal staff work.

A copy of the plan was included in an email sent by Rhian to all regional council members on June 27. In addition, the plan is available as Attachment 17 in the Board meeting documents on the FTF website.



156 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS APPOINTED

On June 11, the Board appointed 156 volunteer Arizonans to seats on FTF regional partnership councils statewide!

More than two-thirds of those individuals were re-appointed and 55 people will be new to their FTF regional councils. We are excited about the unique perspectives all of the individuals will bring to their respective regional councils and thankful for their service to young kids, FTF and Arizona.

Regional council members beginning 4-year terms in July 2012 are listed below. New members are denoted with an asterisk (*).

Central Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

Frank Narducci
Maureen Duane
Lyra Contreras*
Beth Haas*
Mara DeLuca*
Tina Wilson-Hardwick*

Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council

Toby Urvater
Jan Olav Flaaten
Ginger Ward
Nicole McNeil*
Karen Stewart*
Jacqueline Schlosser*

Central Pima Regional Partnership Council

Marguerite Harmon
David Hill
Jolene Mutchler
Bob Hehli*
Kelly Burroughs*

Cochise Regional Partnership Council

Jane Strain
Nancy-Jean Welker
Dr. Stephen Poling*

Coconino Regional Partnership Council

Amanda Guay
Noreen Sakiestewa
Paula Stefani*
Allen Chapa*
Sherri Slayton*
Kevin Brown*

Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council

Jill McCormick
Ines Pampara
Patricia Rodriguez-Weissenberg
Maria Cristina Solorzano
Dr. Michael Reed

Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council

Veronica Homer
Jacqueline Flores
Monica Martinez
Dru Waggoner
James Wolfe

Gila Regional Partnership Council

Diane Bricker
Debora Bunney
Sherry Dorathy
Audrey Opitz
Fernando Shipley*

Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council

Priscilla Foote
Mary Tatum
Melissa Madrid
Brooklyn Dee*
Lillian Franklin*
Emily Warburton*

Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council

Laurie Smith
Jan Elliott
Ryan Henry
Ann Johnson
JoAnn Morales
Pamela Patt
Susan Norton*



Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council

Sandra Irwin
Joyce Holgate
Candida Hunter
Pete Imus

La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council

Riley Frei
Lenore Knudtson
Vijette Saari
Catie Sondrol
Nancy Mongeau
Howard Weiske*

Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council

Harry Martin
Paula Seanez
Amelia Black*
Valonia Hardy*
Rhonda Etsitty*

Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council

Claude Endfield
Jeffrey Northup
Dr. Catherine Taylor
Betsy Peck
Kirk Grugel*
Linda Thompson*
Kristalei Baskins*

North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council

Willette Watts
William Thrall
Connie Robinson
Cori More*
Lyn Bailey*
Gwen Parker*

North Pima Regional Partnership Council

Scott Ingram
Thomas Collins
Naomi Karp
Annabel Ratley

Northeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

Mary Permoda
Marie Raymond
Patricia VanMaanen
Jenny Stahl*
Bettina Vance-Johnson*

Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

Karon Ford
Patrick N. Contrades
Annette Johnson*
Lynda Vescio*
Jannelle Radoccia*

Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council

Theresa Cariño
Shanna Ioane Tautolo
Amalia Reyes
Hector Youtsey
William Rosenberg*

Pinal Regional Partnership Council

Christina Jenkins
Stuart Fain
Dr. Richard Saran
Pauline Haas-Vaughn*
Angela Philpot*

**Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Regional Partnership Council**

Toni Harvier
Ron Ransom
Deana L. Washington
Christine McIntier
Michelle Jameson*

San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council

Michelle Antonio*
Mary Bendle*
Nolita April Noline*
Flora Howard*

Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council

Anna Rosas
Danna Gallardo
Lee Vellom

South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council

James Washington
Jennifer Quillin
Yolanda Robinson*

South Pima Regional Partnership Council

Fran Driver
Debbie Palmer
Connie Espinoza
Susan Pace*
Anthony Bruno*

Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

Dee Tamminen
Christine Scarpati
Sherreis Moreland*
Detza Van Bogaert*
Maggie Pfaffenberger*

Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

Kelli Cordova Wright
Colleen Day-Mach
Wendy Krisik
David Schwake
Amanda Reyes*
Dora Barrio*

Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council

Louis Johnson
Ella Begay
Mildred Manuel
Ben Standifer*

White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council

Laurel Endfield
Aletha Burnette
Kathleen Wynn
Nikina Whitaker*

Yavapai Regional Partnership Council

Anne Babinsky-Rawlings
Juanita Setzer
Sherry Birch
Dan Brown*
Patricia Whitfield*

Yuma Regional Partnership Council

Gloria Cisneros
Kimberly Fanning
Pilar Moreno
Ricardo Perez
Mary Beth Turner
Irene Garza

